

REMARKS

Claims 1-79 cancelled and new claims 80-100 have been amended as indicated above in accompaniment of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. The Applicant respectfully requests that this application be allowed and forwarded on to issuance.

Examiner Interview

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for the time spent on December 8, 2006 discussing the disposition of this case by telephone with Applicant's representative. During that discussion, Applicant's representative and the Examiner discussed the cited art and some proposed new claims that would potentially receive favorable treatment by the Examiner.

The new claims 80-100 are supported by Figs. 1-15 of the Drawings, and by the text at page 2, line 22 to page 63, line 16 of the Specification, as respectively originally filed. Particular attention is directed to the supporting text at page 29, lines 12-21 and at page 30, line 11 to page 31, line 6 of the Specification, and Fig. 11 of the Drawings.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 20-29, 41-42, 49-53, 55-67 and 76-79 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0172368 ("Peterka").

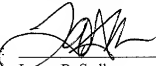
Because claims 1-79 have been cancelled (either herein or previously in prosecution), Applicant asserts that the § 102 rejections cited above are moot.

Conclusion

The Applicant asserts that new claims 80-100 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests examination on the merits of the new claims and issuance of a Notice of Allowability forthwith. If the next Office communication is other than a Notice of Allowance, Applicant respectfully requests a telephone interview to discuss forwarding the application to Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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